

Applicants submit that the present application is ready for examination on the merits.  
Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 17, with the following text:

--A preparation using inorganic salts such as  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ ,  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and  $\text{CaSO}_4$  as the anion regulator does, however, result sometimes in decreased intake of feed added with such preparation, because such inorganic salts per se are less palatable to cattle [HOARD'S DAIRYMAN (1990), Apr., 344 [(Japanese version)]]; The stage before parturition is an especially important preparative period for the stage of lactation after parturition. Decreases in feed intake during such an important stage results not only in reduced efficiency of milk production but also in reduced breeding efficiency during the next stage. These, in turn, then result in large economic losses.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 12, with the following text:

--A simple method for determining the effectiveness of anion regulators has been shown to be the measurement of urinary pH. If a DCAD value is positive, the urinary pH is 7 - 8.5. It is also known that if an anion regulator is added, and as a result the feed is changed to show a negative DCAD value, the urinary pH of animals to which such feed has been fed is reduced and will show a value of 6.5 - 5.5 when the anion regulator has been added in an appropriate amount. Refer to HOARD'S DAIRYMAN (1995), Sep., 634 [(Japanese version)].--